

are completed, we would expect to move those conference reports to the floor as soon as possible.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me just ask my friend maybe in closing, why is there a need for us to be here late next Thursday night? The gentleman says as a possibility.

Mr. PORTMAN. Well, it really depends on what kind of progress we make earlier in the week I suppose. We are going to come in, as we said, Tuesday night and start with suspensions and then we start working on some of these other bills, but it looks as though the Charitable Choice Giving Act and the Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act will take quite a bit of time on Wednesday and Thursday. So, again, we are telling Members they should expect to be here on Thursday night probably to vote on the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for being so forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, September 15, 2003, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2003, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

THE REAL STORY ON IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a trip to Iraq. I

was privileged to go with the Committee on Government Reform and one can imagine my surprise turning on the evening news the day I got back and watching the national news anchor describe a situation that, quite honestly, I did not recognize and we had just left the country.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not getting the real story on what is happening with our troops in Iraq.

General Conway of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Babylon described to us what he said was a vivid success story. He told us that Iraqis are not concerned that we would stay too long but rather that we would leave too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I was impressed by the return to normal life that is present through all areas of Iraq that I visited. The markets are full. In fact, there were traffic jams on the streets of Baghdad. Satellite dishes have sprouted on the roof tops of houses and apartment buildings, probably 25 to 30 percent, and Mr. Speaker, just four or five months ago, possession of a satellite dish was punishable by a year in prison.

The schools finished their school year. They completed the wheat harvest in the area around Tikrit in northern Iraq.

From the standpoint of our military, the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom was prosecuted brilliantly. Mr. Speaker, there is no remaining strategic threat. To be sure, there are still dangers and there are still terrorists, but there is no operational threat in Iraq. Stabilization is now the key goal of our offensive operation. Our troops are charged with finding, containing and killing those who would harm our troops and Iraqi citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to draw attention to a photograph from the 4th Infantry Division. That is a division from Fort Hood, Texas. This is a picture that I took in one of Saddam's old palaces. Forty-two of the 54 individuals identified as the most wanted of the previous regime have been crossed off this list. The top caption reads, "Saddam's regime is gone and will not be back." At the bottom someone panned, Can you hear me now?

Health care was particularly important to me, bearing in mind that no health care infrastructure improvements have occurred for over 30 years in Iraq. A member of the Civil Affairs Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Keller reported to me that within one of the medical libraries at the medical school he visited no text had copyright later than 1984. Pharmaceuticals that were manufactured in Iraq were useless. They relied upon donations from Kuwait after the combat phase to avert a humanitarian disaster.

Mr. Speaker, in 90 days, schools completed their academic year and conducted testing. Ninety percent of the major cities and towns across Iraq have functioning town councils and city councils, over 500,000 Iraqis are contrib-

uting to their own security. Prisons are on the verge of reopening. The judicial system is up and functioning. Food distribution is not a problem. No humanitarian crisis grew as a result of the combat operations, and although they have a long way to go, the hospitals remain open and functional, and very important to me as a physician, 4.2 million children have been immunized since the first of May.

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that this progress within 90 days of the end of the major combat phase, none of these things were in place after 1 year of the conclusion of combat in Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a good story to be told to the American people about what has happened in Iraq, and I intend to make that part of my mission.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1304

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) at 1 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SO COMMITTED AND SO RESOLVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, today the United States is a Nation in mourning. And yet, Mr. Speaker, even as we grieve, we fight. Even as our hearts burst with compassion, our souls burn with resolve. Because today the United States is also a Nation at war.

We are at war for the survival of our Nation and the cause of freedom. And we are at war against the evil that planned and executed the attacks we coldly remember today. That evil we fight today is the same evil mankind